

Application No. 09/780,283
Amendment "A" dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed September 30, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Original) In a video encoder that encodes video data in a compressed format in preparation for transmitting the video data to an entertainment system, wherein the encoded video data is characterized by parameters that vary as a function of time within the video data, a method of supplementing the video data with information identifying candidates for segment transitions between segments of the video data, the method comprising:

encoding the video data in the compressed format;

including, with the video data, information representing the change in the value of a parameter by performing the acts of:

calculating a preceding local average value of the parameter in a portion of the video data preceding the position;

calculating a following local average value of the parameter in a portion of the video data following the position;

generating a local average difference by calculating the absolute value of the difference between the preceding local average value and the following local average value; and

inserting information relating to the local average difference into the video data; and

transmitting the video data and the information representing the change in the value of the parameter to a decoder included in an entertainment system such that the entertainment system can skip playback of the video data to a segment transition in the video data.

22. (Original) A method as defined in claim 21, wherein the parameter is selected from a group of parameters consisting of:

frame size;

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luminance of an image encoded in the video data; and
overall quantization scale used to encode the color of the image.

23. (Original) A method as defined in claim 21, wherein:
the video data is encoded using a compression format that uses interframe
decoding and includes periodic intraframes used in interframe decoding; and
the parameter represents a frequency of the intraframes in the video data.

24. (Original) A method as defined in claim 21, wherein the act of identifying
positions in the video data that are candidates for segment transitions comprises the act of
comparing values representing the change in the values of multiple parameters of the video data,
including performing, for each of the multiple parameters, the acts of:

calculating a preceding local average value of the parameter in a portion of the
video data preceding the position;

calculating a following local average value of the parameter in a portion of the
video data following the position;

generating a local average difference value by calculating the absolute value of
the difference between the preceding local average value and the following local average
value; and

identifying local maxima in the local average difference values over time.

25-28 (Cancelled).